

Serial No. **10/731,445**

Docket No. **K-0589**

Amdt. dated March 20, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] Referring to FIG. 3, the rear lid 16 is comprised of an inner panel 22 having a plurality of reinforcement ribs 22a extending from its inner surface and protruding inward and an outer panel 20 having a plurality of fitting grooves 22a formed in its inner surface in correspondence to the reinforcement ribs. The cross-section of the outer panel 20 shows a contoured (curved) surface forming the exterior of the washing machine, in which recesses are provided to enable lid operation, to allow access to controls, and impart an aesthetic appearance.

During assembly, the reinforcement ribs 22a of the inner panel 22 are fitted to the fitting grooves ~~24~~20a of the outer panel 20 and are welded (not shown) to the inner surface of the outer panel 20, thus joining the panels to form the rear lid 16. Notably, each of the reinforcement ribs 22a has a flat distal end and extends to a predetermined height according to the contours of the outer panel 20.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Referring to FIG. 4, an inner panel 52 and an outer panel 50 are joined together to form a rear lid 16, the outer panel being contoured according to the design needs of the home appliance. A plurality of reinforcement ribs 50a, integrally formed with the outer panel 50, protrude inward from an inner surface of the outer panel, to extend to a predetermined height,

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i.e., such that their distal ends all lie in a single plane. At least one boss 54 is provided on an inner surface of the inner panel 52 in opposition to the reinforcement ribs 50a. The boss 54 has a flat upper surface, establishing a right angle with respect to the protruding reinforcement ribs 50a, and a plurality of coupling grooves 54a are formed in the flat upper surface in correspondence to the distal ends of the reinforcement ribs, which are flat and respectively fitted to the coupling grooves to be joined with the boss by welding.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Accordingly, the welded coupling between the reinforcement ribs 50a and the boss ~~52a~~ 54 is secure, and remains strong even after extended use, due to the right angle created when the reinforcement ribs 50a are inserted into the coupling grooves 54a of the boss 54. Moreover, since the reinforcing ribs 50a all extend to a predetermined height, regardless of the contoured shape of the outer panel 50, cabinet manufacturing is facilitated since their height may be easily controlled and since their welds lie in one plane.